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Item 15 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-second session of the Commission/ Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
23 - 27 April 1987

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

LC/NA

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION/ TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

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* E/ECA/TPCW.8/1.

** E/ECA/CM.13/1.

1. The twenty-first session of the Commission and twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers was held in Yaounde, the Republic of Cameroon, from 17 to 21 April 1986. The meeting adopted 26 resolutions embracing all sectors of socio-economic development of the African region. Among these resolutions, three were specifically addressed to the General Assembly of the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council. The actions taken on these resolutions are reported in a separate document (E/ECA/CM.13/38). The majority of the other resolutions appealed to member States, the Executive Secretary and organs of the United Nations and other organizations to take certain measures with a view to implementing them. The propose of this document is therefore to give the meeting an account of the various actions taken towards the implementation of the following resolutions and the difficulties encountered.

Resolution 564 (XXI): Industrial Development Decade for Africa

2. The twenty-first session of the Commission and twelfth meeting of the Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 564 (XXI) on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) which was submitted by the Joint ECA/UNIDO Industry Division.

3. The salient provisions of the resolution upon which action by the ECA Executive Secretary was called for or implied were as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 2

In this paragraph, the Conference requested the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Director-General of UNIDO to submit the fifth joint progress report on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Follow-up action: Resolution 564 (XXI), together with the above-mentioned fifth joint progress report, were submitted to ECOSOC at its second regular session of 1986 held at Geneva from 2 to 23 July 1986. ECOSOC, in turn, adopted resolution 1986/63 requesting ECA and UNIDO to increase their assistance to African countries and subregional organizations as had also been requested by ECA resolution 564 (XXI) in operative paragraph 5 herebelow.

(b) Operative paragraph 5

According to this paragraph, the Conference requested the secretariats of ECA and UNIDO to increase their assistance to African countries and subregional organizations with a view to promoting subregional co-operation within the framework of the Decade.

Follow-up action: Continued technical assistance has been provided by ECA to African countries through the MULPOCs as well as intergovernmental organizations such as the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the field of basic industries. A number of activities were undertaken for the promotion of identified metallurgical, chemical and engineering projects as well as identification of new ones. TCDC activities were also carried out between

Côte d'Ivoire and Zaire with regard to the transfer of technology for cassava-processing. Substantive and technical support has also continued to be given to the ECA-sponsored African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), located at Ibadan, Nigeria.

(c) Operative paragraph 10

In this paragraph, the Conference appealed to the General Assembly to allocate to the Economic Commission for Africa, on an annual basis, as recommended by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1985/61 of July 1985, the sum of $US 700,000, being the difference between the annual allocation of $US 5 million approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/233 for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the annual amount of $US 4.3 million allocated to the Decade in the 1986-1987 programme budget of the Organization, when it became a United Nations specialized agency in August 1985.

Follow-up action: No specific follow-up action has been undertaken by ECA during the forty-first session of the General Assembly since the above-mentioned paragraph was not approved by ECOSOC. It was therefore not submitted to the General Assembly.

(d) Operative paragraph 12

According to this paragraph, the Conference appealed to the international community, multilateral funding agencies, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, as well as bilateral donors, to provide resources and technical assistance to the industrial sector in Africa to enable the implementation of national and subregional investment and support projects.

Follow-up action: In addition to its continued efforts to mobilize increased resources for the industrial sector in Africa from traditional and new sources, ECA has closely co-operated with UNDP in preparing for the Fourth Programming Cycle to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to industry with special reference to the development of those industries which provide inputs to the food and agriculture sector as recommended in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD).

Resolution 565 (XXI): Improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa

4. In this resolution, operative paragraph 11 reads: "Also calls up on the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to extend to African countries and subregions, other than those already covered, studies on review of food and agricultural policies, land-use policies, food import substitution and food losses and on measures to improve co-operatives and small farmers' organizations, and to report the results of these studies to the Conference of Ministers at future meetings".

5. In this regard, the secretariat is happy to inform the Conference that a study on "Land-use policies and farming systems" has been undertaken covering the countries of the Horn of Africa. The study is submitted to this Conference in document E/ECA/CM.13/13.

Resolution 566 (XXI): The role of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres in the promotion of subregional co-operation and interregional technical and economic co-operation

10. This resolution did not call for any particular action to be taken by ECA. It may, however, be noted first that, during the year under review, 10 meetings of the policy organs of the MULPOCs were held during the first quarter of 1986. These marked a watershed in the history of MULPOCs because, for the first time ever, they adopted biennial work programmes that were integral parts of the work programme of the substantive divisions of ECA. This will ensure that all ECA resources will be available to the MULPOCs in the implementation of their work programmes. Secondly, for the first time ever, the MULPOCs considered subregional economic and social surveys of their areas. These surveys are complementary to the regional surveys that are submitted each year to the ECA Conference of Ministers and bring the issues raised therein nearer home to the member States. These surveys should become useful instruments of subregional planning and development in due course. Thirdly, during the year substantive directors of the MULPOCs based in Lusaka, Niamey and Tangiers were appointed in accordance with ECA Conference of Ministers resolutions 552 (XX) and 549 (XX) of 29 April 1985. The fact that this could be done during the period of financial crisis in the United Nations, when appointments of staff were frozen, show the importance attached to these posts (and to the MULPOCs) by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is unnecessary to labour the importance of MULPOCs having substantive directors. Fourthly, the MULPOCs have continued to render all-round technical assistance to the economic co-operation and integration groupings in their areas, i.e., ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEPGL, PTA, SADCC, etc. This assistance will continue in the coming year. Fifthly, UNDP has confirmed its readiness to make available, on a trial basis, about $US 300,000 to one or two selected MULPOCs during its Fourth Programming Cycle, 1987-1991. Suitable project documents are being prepared for approval by UNDP.

Resolution 567 (XXI): Development of tourism in Africa

6. The Regional Conference on Intra-African Tourism Co-operation held in Niamey, the Niger, from 2 to 6 October 1984, decided in its resolutions 1 and 2, to establish the "Conference of African Ministers of Tourism" at the highest level as a permanent co-ordinating organ for tourism development in Africa, and requested ECA, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and other institutions and bodies, to undertake the following activities:

(a) Study of the personnel needs of African tourism; propose practical measures to adapt training to the needs of countries and of the region and also propose training infrastructures and methods to be used;

(b) Conduct a study for the establishment of a joint tourism promotion system in Africa; and

(c) Study of the activities of the transnational hotel management firms in Africa.

7. By its resolution 567 (XXI), the ECA Conference of Ministers endorsed the decisions of the Regional Conference on Intra-African Tourism.

Implementation action

8. All the three studies referred to above have been carried out and some additional activities have also been undertaken, viz:

(a) A "Directory of African specialists in tourism"; and

(b) A "Directory of training facilities for tourism in Africa".

9. The first meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 November 1987.

Resolution 568 (XX): Trade and development finance

I. International trade issues

(a) The new round of multilateral trade negotiations [(VIII)]

11. The joint ECA/OAU secretariat, represented by the staff from OAU, assisted member States in providing technical backstopping for African experts prior to the GATT Ministerial Meeting on the New Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations which took place in Uruguay from 15 to 19 September 1986.

(b) The seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

12. As part of its assistance to member States, the secretariat prepared a paper entitled "Africa's economic recovery, growth and development: Proposals for UNCTAD VII", document E/ECA/TRADE/54. This paper was considered both by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts' meeting and the Conference of Ministers for Trade and Development as part of Africa's preparations for effective participation in UNCTAD VII. It was submitted to the Ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 and integrated as part of the developing countries' submission to UNCTAD VII. The secretariat also held consultative meetings with the African group in Geneva as part of its assistance to enable member States to participate effectively in UNCTAD VII. An ad hoc expert group meeting was also organized jointly by the ECA and UNCTAD secretariats on commodity issues and international resource flows including external debts. Consultations were also held in Geneva on the implementation of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries.

(c) Promoting trade between African countries and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe

13. ECA, in collaboration with the UNCTAD secretariat and within the framework of the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Co-operation, organized a national seminar in Zimbabwe in February 1986, and a bilingual English/French seminar for high-level officials from countries of the Central and West African subregions in Moscow in July 1986. Both seminars considered ways and means of strengthening trade and economic relations between these two groups of countries.

II. Regional, subregional and national trade issues

(a) Domestic trade

14. Three case studies on domestic trade in West Africa (Senegal, the Niger and Sierra Leone) were completed and an analysis of the structures and distribution mechanisms with a view to proposing policy measures for improving the conditions under which such trade took place. Other case studies were undertaken for Cameroon, Madagascar and Ethiopia. At the national level, member States had intensified their efforts to develop better storage, distribution and transport facilities for domestic trade.

(b) Intra-African trade

15. At the subregional level, the ECA secretariat has assisted member countries in the implementation of (a) measures to reduce and eventually remove barriers to intra-African trade; (b) accelerate the process of economic integration within existing subregional groupings; and (c) the establishment of a Commodity Exchange for Eastern and Southern Africa. In addition, ECA, as an executing agency of a UNDP-financed project, assisted the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in implementing its work programme, in particular with regard to studies on tariff and non-tariff barriers among countries of the subregion and the extension of the Central African Clearing House (CACH) to include all members of the Community. At the last summit of the ECCAS Heads of State and Government held in Yaounde in January 1986, support was given and decisions taken to promote intra-African trade.

16. In North Africa, ECA and the Tangier-based MULPOC have submitted reports and recommendations to the policy organs of the MULPOCs based on country profiles of member States of the subregion and a "Declaration of intent and commitment by member countries for the establishment of a Preferential Trade Area for North Africa". The member countries of the subregion have yet to make their commitments to establish the Preferential Trade Area. In the meantime, a staff member of the secretariat undertook a mission to the member countries of the subregion, among other things, for preliminary discussions with relevant authorities on appropriate measures for establishing the Preferential Trade Area.

17. In the Eastern and Southern African subregion, member States of PTA implemented concrete measures for promoting intra-African trade. These included (a) the establishment of a PTA Trade and Development Bank which became fully operational in 1986; (b) the establishment of a PTA Chamber of Commerce; (c) measures to increase the use of the PTA Clearing House by the member States for intra-PTA transactions; and (d) the organization of a PTA Trade Fair in Nairobi in September 1986 at which between 500 and 800 firms participated and which resulted in over $US 100 million worth of orders.

(c) The establishment and development of a regional African trade information system

18. The steps towards the establishment of trade information system and networks were taken by the PTA member countries (with the assistance of ITC/UNCTAD/GATT) which completed supply and demand surveys and were engaged in the establishment of a Trade Information Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, with a view to working out modalities for a network. Efforts are now being deployed for linking the PTA Trade Information Centre with the Eastern and Southern African Documentation

and Information System (ESADIS), a project of ECA's PADIS in Lusaka (ECA would put its hardware and know-how at the disposal of PTA if all goes well). ECA and ITC prepared a project for the establishment of a regional trade information system. Resources necessary for the preparatory phase amount to $US 150,000. Although the Executive Secretary and the ITC Executive Director were invited to give this project priority, no funds could be obtained from ITC's trust funds or from the UNTFAD funds under the custody of ECA. The project was submitted for financing to UNDP in the Fourth Programming Cycle. In the meantime, efforts were made to start building up a documentation unit and PADIS computer facilities are being used to start storing data and studies on trade at ECA.

(d) The Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO)

19. As a follow up to the resolution, intensive activities were undertaken by the AATPO secretariat. Reminder letters and cables were sent out to member States drawing their attention to the deep financial crisis which is still jeopardizing the existence of the Organization and hampering its activities. The Secretary-General of AATPO undertook a mission to 10 member countries for the collection of arrears and contributions. Promises made by relevant authorities during that collection campaign did not materialize. As a result of this, AATPO has not been able to meet its payroll and its basic supplies such as electricity, water and communications for the last nine months.

20. Consultations between the Secretary-General of OAU, the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Secretary-General of AATPO on this worrying financial crisis were held in Addis Ababa in December 1986. A request for emergency financial assistance by the AATPO Secretary-General was then considered and submitted thereafter to the relevant OAU organs for consideration. A joint cable was sent by the OAU Secretary-General and the ECA Executive Secretary kindly requesting AATPO member States to pay at least part of their arrears to bail the Organization out of the crisis. It was also decided that a special session of the AATPO policy organs would be convened on the occasion of the ninth Conference of African Ministers of Trade to be held in Addis Ababa in March 1987.

(e) The Federation of African Chambers of Commerce (FACC)

21. As a follow up to the resolution, the interim secretariat of the Federation (ECA) finalized the plan of operation of the Federation, including its medium-term plan for the first five years. These were subsequently adopted by the policy organs of the organization. The Secretary-General of the Federation was appointed and the ECA Executive Secretary was requested to issue him a letter of appointment by July 1986. Efforts were also deployed by the ECA secretariat for the finalization of the Headquarters' Agreement and its signature by the host Government and the Federation.

22. On the member countries' side, the following countries effectively paid their contributions: Chad, Senegal, Ethiopia and Cameroon, representing $US 22,070.50 out of a budget of $US 150,000 for Year I (i.e., less than 15 per cent of the total budget). However, Egypt (host country) has not taken any step towards the finalization and signature of the Headquarters' Agreement in spite of several contacts with the Egyptian authorities through their Embassy in Addis Ababa and through the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce. As a result of the low level of paid-up contributions and the lack of progress in the finalization of the Headquarters Agreement, the ECA Executive Secretary could not appoint the Secretary-General of the Federation.

(f) The Eastern and Southern African Trade Promotion Training centre

23. The strengthening of the Trade Promotion Training Centre requires a substantial financial support. For the time being, the Government of Kenya is the only source of funding for the core staff of the Centre and the necessary equipment. Funds from various sources, including the European Economic Community, enabled the Centre to conduct a few training events. For the funding of the Centre, a project document was prepared by ITC with ECA's support for submission to UNDP requesting the funding of the Centre by the latter. UNDP's contribution, if granted, would amount to $US 946,000. The paucity of the membership of the Centre and the non-payment of contributions are still matters of great concern in the operations of the Centre.

Resolution 569 (XXI): Institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa

24. In pursuance of this resolution, letters have been sent to member States to give these institutions financial, technical and political support. The response has been mixed. However, following the second extraordinary session of the Conference of Ministers held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 15 October 1986, which considered, inter alia, the UNDP/REA Regional Programme for Africa, 1987-1991, UNDP has decided to continue its support during the cycle for the African Regional Centre for Engineering Design and Manufacturing (ARCEDEM), the African Regional Standardization Organization (ARSO), the Regional Centre for Services in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS). Under its short-term consultancy umbrella project, UNDP will also support African river basin development, economic integration groupings and the informal sector to the tune of $US 300,000 maximum. UNDP is also committed to the ongoing CEPGL project to the tune of $US 2 million during 1987-1991. IDEP will be evaluated with a view to strengthening it to be a "think-tank" for UNDP and ADB on African economic issues. Finally, during the first quarter of 1987, a dialogue will proceed between ECA, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UNDP on the funding during the period 1987-1991 of the African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT), the African Institute for Advanced Public Policy Analysis and Future Studies, the management of African economies and human resources, upgrading of manpower skills, promotion of African industry in transport and communications, facilitation of international trade and development finance. All this will involve such ECA-sponsored institutions as the African Centre for Monetary Studies (ACMS), the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC), the Eastern and Southern Africa Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), the Association of African Trade Promotion Organizations (AATPO), the Trans-East African Highway Authority (TEAHA), the Trans-African Highway Authority (TAHA), the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI), the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), the African Institute for Higher Technical Training and Research (AIHTTR), etc.

Resolution 571 (XXI): Human settlements

25. In this resolution, the Conference of Ministers, inter alia:

(a) Requested the Executive Secretary, in particular, to do everything possible to ensure that applied research into development of local building materials and construction industries on subregional and regional basis receives substantial assistance over the period 1987-1991 from the United Nations

Development Programme, other donor agencies and countries, and the non-governmental organizations concerned; and

(b) Recommended that co-operation between the Commission's secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and all relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should be strengthened with a view to promoting human settlements activities in the African region.

26. As far as the development of local building materials is concerned, a project assistance document was sent to UNDP to be considered within the Fourth Programming Cycle, 1987-1991. The immediate objectives of the project are as follows:

(a) To identify, develop and produce local building materials in member countries. The development of these materials will be done in four subregional centres;

(b) To carry out by satellite a geological survey of raw materials deposits for building materials in the countries concerned;

(c) To design tools and equipment necessary for the production of local materials by ARCEDEM;

(d) To train technicians for the production of local materials and contractors for investment, management and sale of productive units;

(e) To propose a sectoral adjustment programme in the economy of those countries concerned in order to encourage the development of industry and construction;

(f) To establish 64 production units throughout member States;

(g) To build a pilot residential unit in the countries concerned; and

(h) To undertake a promotion campaign for the sale of building materials.

27. UNDP has already shown interest in the project. As for co-operation between ECA and other United Nations agencies, a co-operation agreement between ECA and Habitat is being studied. Habitat has already transferred two of its officers to ECA.

28. Furthermore ECA has associated Habitat, Shelter Afrique and competent African intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of its regional project on the development of building materials industry in Africa.

Resolution 572 (XXI): African participation in the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

29. Since resolution 572 (XXI) African participation in the preparations for the United Nations Conference for the Promotion of International Co-operation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy - was adopted in April 1986, the Executive

Secretary of ECA has taken steps to prepare for a meeting of government plenipotentiaries to consider the establishment of an African Nuclear Energy Commission, a body that would be responsible for the promotion of the development of African technological capabilities in nuclear science. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the last quarter of 1987. The meeting will also consider the possibility of the formation of an Association of African Nuclear Scientists.

Resolution 573 (XXI): Subregional perspectives

30. The implementation of this resolution depends on the request of the African subregional institutions and the member States. However, the ECA secretariat has not yet been requested to undertake such studies. If this situation persists, the ECA secretariat would, in agreement with the CILSS secretariat, proceed to the evaluation of the implementation of the Plan of Action and research directives adopted by the Dakar Colloquium with a view to set up new perspectives of the subregion in the light of the actions undertaken within the framework of APPER. For the other subregions like ECOWAS, CEAO and SADCC, the ECA secretariat would survey and analyse the perspectives studies realized with the aim of undertaking their harmonization within a large set-up than that of CILSS.

Resolution 574 (XXI): African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

31. In accordance with resolution 574 (XXI) on the future of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning, efforts have been made and frequent visits were paid to member States by the management of the Institute to ensure timely payment of the assessed planned contributions of governments. The outcome of these efforts were rather favourable and plans were made to intensify these efforts in future. On the future of IDEP, the twenty-ninth meeting of the Governing Council of IDEP, which was held in Addis Ababa on 7 and 8 November 1986, made a number of concrete proposals and recommendations to that effect. One of the major decisions of that meeting was that IDEP be restructured to ensure that it can perform all its functions, training, research and advisory services and publications more effectively. On that issue, the Council decided that, in future, all the training activities depend entirely on government contributions while the new frontiers in research, advisory services and publications be supported by bilateral sources, in particular UNDP. An evaluation mission was set up to assess the above propositions including UNDP assistance during a transitional period. These propositions, as reflected in the terms of reference, should constitute the basis and the guidelines of work of the mission. The Council also established a sub-committee from its members to prepare a new five-year work programme for IDEP (medium-term plan 1987-1991). After the evaluation mission, the restructuring of IDEP, the five-year programme, and UNDP funding during the Fourth Programming Cycle, the Governing Council would then submit concrete proposals to the next ECA Conference of Ministers on the future of IDEP.

Resolution 575 (XXI): Short-term economic forecasting in the African region

32. In accordance with resolution 575 (XXI) on strengthening short-term outlook activities in the African region, ECA continued its efforts to develop the system and the building of the necessary capabilities at the national level. During the period under review, requests from some countries were met but some were constrained by financial difficulties as these missions were, on the whole,

costly in terms of staff and financial resources. However, a project document for possible funding was prepared and a donor is yet to be identified. ECA also organized a workshop in September 1986 for training African planning specialists in the field of multisectoral planning models and the establishment of short-term economic forecasting systems.

Resolution 576 (XXI): Strengthening of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa

33. Following the adoption of the resolution, a copy was forwarded to each of the following bilateral and multilateral donor agencies: The European Economic Community (EEC), the Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Ministère français de la coopération et du développement.

34. In the covering letters, the attention of the donors was drawn to the appreciation expressed by the Conference of Ministers for the assistance so far provided to the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) and the hope that their support will continue and be further strengthened. Also, the Conference requested these donor agencies to facilitate and accelerate the procedure for granting fellowships as much as possible and to pay particular attention to financial support for national and regional statistical training programmes of interest to Portuguese-speaking African countries.

35. With regard to the EEC, special mention was made of the project "EEC assistance to STPA" which is being implemented and financed from the Lome II Convention funds and also it was hoped that a special project for the Portuguese-speaking African countries will be adopted by the Community.

36. As co-ordinator of the STPA, ECA offered to assist the donor agencies in any action they intend to take in response to the resolution and other actions within the framework of STPA.

37. In response, the EEC was very pleased to note the favourable appreciation shown by the ECA Conference of Ministers on the action taken by the EEC for statistical training in Africa through the project "EEC assistance to STPA" and also the fellowships financed by the national indicative programmes of the EEC.

38. With regard to assistance to the Portuguese-speaking African countries, the EEC have pointed out that it is up to the ACP States to present an appropriate request to the Commission of the European Communities according to the provision of the Lome Convention. In addition, the EEC will, through the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC), get in touch with the countries concerned to review with them their needs in this field.

39. In this connection, representatives of the EEC, the Ecole nationale de la statistique et de l'administration économique (ENSAE) and the Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes de pays en développement (CESD) (Paris, France) organized a mission to Lisbon, Portugal, from 15 to 18 December 1986 to discuss with Portuguese Government officials the establishment of an institute similar to ENSAE (Paris, France) in which provision will be made for training statisticians at professional level from the Portuguese-speaking African countries. The recommendations of this meeting will be discussed at a meeting

planned to be held by the EEC with Directors of the National Statistical Offices of the Portuguese-speaking African countries early next year.

40. There have been no comments from the other donors.

Resolution 577 (XXI): African demographic training institutes

41. It may be recalled that the Conference of Ministers adopted resolution 577 (XXI) on the African demographic training institutes which recommended that African Governments should progressively take over the financing of the institutes so that by the end of a five-year transition period (1988-1992) they would have assumed the financing of a significant part of the institutes' budgets.1/ It appealed to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to continue its funding of the institutes in order to allow the African Governments time to progressively take over such funding. It also invited the Executive Secretary to restructure the institutes on the basis of the recommendations of the joint session of the Governing Council of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) and the Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD), including a revision of the statutes and salary scales as necessitated by this restructuring.

42. A study of the funding possibilities during the transition period has been made by ECA and has been submitted to UNFPA, the main funding source of the institutes. The study envisages a gradual reduction in UNFPA funding and a corresponding increase in funding by the African member States. UNFPA has conveyed to ECA its support to this gradual reduction of its funding during a five-year transition period (1988-1992).

43. The member States have started to contribute to the institutes though this is still at a low level. In 1986, only two countries paid contributions to RIPS whilst only three countries contributed to IFORD in spite of reminders sent by the Executive Secretary to African Governments appealing to them to pay their contributions to the institutes. The issue is being brought up for discussion by the next meetings of the Governing Councils of the institutes, early in 1987. These meetings will decide on the funding arrangements for the five-year transition period.

44. UNFPA has approved budgets to fund the institutes in 1987. It has also agreed to a gradual reduction in its funding over the five-year transition period.

45. As regards the restructuring of the institutes, the recommendations of the joint session of the Governing Councils and details of their implications on the future operation of the institutes will be discussed by the forthcoming meeting of the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD in February 1987. The restructuring of the institutes will involve changes to their statutes, to their present status as subsidiary organs of ECA, to the salary scales of staff of the institutes and to their conditions of service. Concrete details of these changes will be decided upon by the forthcoming Governing Councils meetings in February 1987. These details will be made available to the Conference of Ministers meeting.

1/ Tunisia expressed a reservation regarding this paragraph.

Resolution 578 (XXI): Development of environmental capabilities in Africa

46. In this resolution, recommendations were made on development of national environmental standards, implementation of conventions and protocols on the environment and institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

I. Development of national environmental standards

47. A technical publication (document E/ECA/ENV/17/Rev.1) "Developing national environmental standards for Africa" has been produced and sent to all ECA member States. The publication resulted from the report of the Joint Expert Group meeting organized by ECA and the African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) on the subject. The publication provides guidelines to African countries for the adoption of national environmental standards to halt environmental degradation with particular emphasis on drinking water supply, human waste disposal, agro-chemical use and industrial wastes and desertification and drought control in Africa.

II. Implementation of conventions and protocols on the environment

48. ECA has included a study to identify the difficulties experienced by African countries in acceding, ratifying and implementing international and regional agreements in the field of the environment, in its environment in Africa work programme for the 1988-1989 biennium. ECA is also taking appropriate steps to produce a project document jointly with UNEP, OAU and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) for extrabudgetary funding of the activities envisaged to solve the problem.

III. Institutionalization of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

49. A report (E/ECA/ENV/33) to the fourth meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment, held from 8 to 13 February 1987, indicated the activities being undertaken, within the context of the institutionalized African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to implement the Cairo Programme of Action for African co-operation on the environment and eco-development. ECA is in consultation with UNEP, Habitat and OAU in order to establish modalities for co-operation between the Joint Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment which should serve as the technical advisory working group of African experts to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment.

Resolution 579 (XXI): Women and development in Africa

50. Operative paragraph 10 of this resolution urges ECA to continue its work of preparing a directory of African women consultants. The secretariat has prepared a draft roster of African women experts which is available in a computerized print-out form. Plans are underway to have the roster published in early 1987.

51. Operative paragraph 11: as per the request stated in this item, the women programme co-ordinators in the Yaounde, Lusaka and Niamey MULPOCs are fully participating in the donor round-table process, in the country programming and NATCAPs exercises in collaboration with UNDP.

52. Operative paragraph 12: This item requests the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development and the African Training and Research Centre for Women to participate in the meetings of planners, statisticians and demographers. The next PSD meeting is scheduled for 1988 and appropriate measures are being taken to participate in this meeting.

53. Operative paragraph 13: All efforts are being made by the Executive Secretary and the MULPOC directors in approaching African Governments to increase their contributions at the ECA pledging conferences.

54. Operative paragraph 14: Efforts are being made to get more financial sources from all possible sources in support of women's projects.

Resolution 580 (XXI): Women and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the critical economic situation in Africa

55. Efforts are being made by ECA/OAU as can be seen in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER) and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) and to get women's component included in the efforts being made to overcome the critical economic situation of Africa.

Resolution 581 (XXI): Pan-African Documentation and Information System

Hosting of the North African Documentation and Information System (NADIS) by the Arab League Documentation Centre (ALDOC) (operative paragraph 4)

56. The implementation of NADIS was to be made possible with funds to be provided by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. Negotiations with UNDP to acquire the requisite funds are still underway (see operative paragraph 8 below). In spite of this limitation, it has been possible to install at ALDOC a copy of the PADIS statistical data base for the benefit of the member States of the subregion.

Arrangements for the setting up of the Central African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) (operative paragraph 7)

57. Member States of the Yaounde- and Gisenyi-based MULPOCs have been contacted by the respective MULPOC offices. A meeting of plenipotentiaries from the concerned Governments is scheduled for April 1987.

Strategy and work plan for the period 1987-1991 (operative paragraph 8)

58. The strategy and work plan for the implementation of the PADIS programme during 1987-1991 will be submitted to the Regional Technical Committee (RTC) for PADIS at its third meeting to be held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 April 1987.

Request to the European Economic Community by African countries members of the ACP (operative paragraph 9)

59. The project proposals to be submitted to the European Economic Community by the African countries members of the ACP Group of States will be considered by the member States at the next round of MULPOC officials and policy organs meetings.

Request to the EEC by North African countries
(operative paragraph 10)

60. No action taken. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting of the subregional technical committee and by the MULPOC policy organs.

WADIS and ESADIS (operative paragraph 11)

61. The agreement for the establishment of ESADIS at Lusaka, Zambia, is signed. Actions to make the centre operational are underway.

62. The agreement for the establishment of WADIS at Niamey, the Niger, is under negotiation.

Approval of project RAB/82/008 (operative paragraphs 12 and 13)

63. The project had not been approved by UNDP as of January 1987 in spite of efforts made by the Chairman, North African Subregional Technical Committee for PADIS. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States has indicated its willingness to consider funding of activities envisaged for implementation under this project with the framework of the ALDOC project. The level of resources to be made available and the nature of executing arrangements are under discussion.